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For Immediate Release

December 1, 2006

US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff Visits Indiana

Purpose of visit is a tour of new Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center permanent workspace

Indianapolis – U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is in Indiana today to visit the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC), which has now moved into its new, permanent workspace in the Indiana Government Center.

The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center was established earlier this year through legislation and an Executive Order. The purpose of the IIFC is to collect, integrate, evaluate, analyze and disseminate information and intelligence. In doing so, the Center supports local, state and federal agencies in detecting, preventing and responding to criminal and terrorist activity.

"We are working to make all Hoosiers safer and more secure through the combined efforts of law enforcement and intelligence officials," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, who serves as chair of the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (CTASC). "This Fusion Center allows us the ability to respond efficiently and effectively to a security threat anywhere on our home soil."

The IIFC operates as a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). It receives guidance and oversight from an Executive Committee which includes representatives of local, state and federal government.

"The IIFC is a prime example of the teamwork required to effectively battle threats of terrorism and other criminal activity," said IDHS Executive Director Eric Dietz. "The Fusion Center will be a fresh opportunity to unify law enforcement activities in Indiana to improve public safety. This collaborative approach to intelligence analysis supports local law enforcement and can help prevent and solve crimes using information that we have always had available."

This teamwork also includes the general public. The creation of the IIFC establishes a single point of contact in the state for citizens to report suspicious terrorist and criminal activity. Citizens can contact the IIFC by phone at 866-400-4432 or by e-mail at iifc@iifc.in.gov.

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